

CHAPTER THREE

LUBRICATION, MAINTENANCE AND TUNE-UP

If this is your first experience with an All-terrain Vehicle, you should become acquainted with products that are available in auto or motorcycle parts and supply stores. Look into the tune-up tools and parts and check out the different lubricants such as motor oil, locking compounds and greases. Also check engine degreasers, like Gunk or Bel-Ray Degreaser, for cleaning your engine prior to working on it.

The more you get involved in your Fourtrax the more you will want to work on it. Start out by doing simple tune-up, lubrication and maintenance. Tackle more involved jobs as you gain experience.

The Honda Fourtrax 300 is a relatively simple machine but to gain the utmost in safety, performance and useful life from it, it is necessary to make periodic inspections and adjustments. It frequently happens that minor problems are found during such inspections that are simple and inexpensive to correct at the time, but which could lead to major problems if not corrected.

This chapter explains lubrication, maintenance and tune-up procedures required for the Fourtrax covered in this book. **Table 1** is a suggested factory

maintenance schedule. **Tables 1-5** are located at the end of this chapter.

PRE-CHECKS

The following checks should be performed prior to the first ride of the day.

1. Inspect all fuel lines and fittings for wetness.
2. Make sure the fuel tank is full of fresh gasoline.
3. Make sure the engine oil level is correct, add oil if necessary.
4. Check the oil level in the final drive unit.
5. On 4-wheel drive models, check the oil level in the front gear case and the front differential.
6. Make sure the air filter element is clean.
7. Check the operation of the clutch and adjust if necessary.
8. Check the throttle and the brake levers. Make sure they operate properly with no binding.
9. Check the brake fluid level in the front master cylinder reservoir, add fluid if necessary.

10. Inspect the front and rear suspension; make sure it has a good solid feel with no looseness.
11. On 4-wheel drive models, inspect the drive axle rubber boots for wear or damage.
12. Check tire pressure, refer to **Table 2**.
13. Check the exhaust system for damage.
14. Check the tightness of all fasteners, especially engine mounting hardware.
15. Make sure the headlight and taillight work.

SERVICE INTERVALS

The services and intervals shown in **Table 1** are recommended by the factory. Strict adherence to these recommendations will insure long service from your Honda Fourtrax. However, if the vehicle is run in an area of high humidity the lubrication and services must be done more frequently to prevent possible rust damage. This is especially true if you have run the Fourtrax through water (especially salt water).

For convenience when maintaining your vehicle, most of the services shown in **Table 1** are described in this chapter. However, some procedures which require more than minor disassembly or adjustment are covered elsewhere in the appropriate chapter.

TIRES AND WHEELS

Tire Pressure

Tire pressure should be checked and adjusted to maintain the smoothness of the tire, good traction and handling and to get the maximum life out of the tire. A simple, accurate gauge (**Figure 1**) can be purchased for a few dollars and should be carried in your tool box in the tow vehicle. The appropriate tire pressures are shown in **Table 2**.

WARNING

Always inflate both rear tires to the same pressure. If the vehicle is run with unequal air pressures it will cause the vehicle to always run toward one side and cause poor handling.

CAUTION

Do not over inflate the stock tires as they will be permanently distorted and damaged. If overinflated, they will bulge out similar to inflating an inner tube that is

*not within the constraints of a tire. If this happens the tire **will not** return to its original contour.*

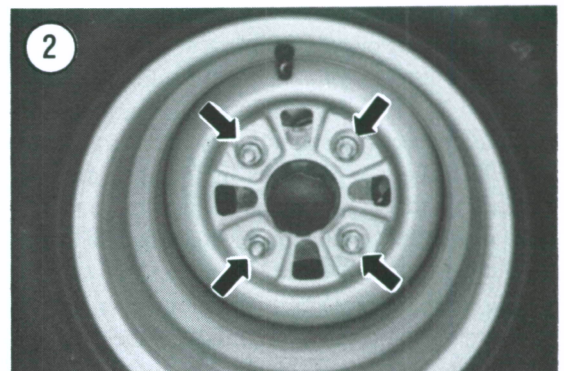
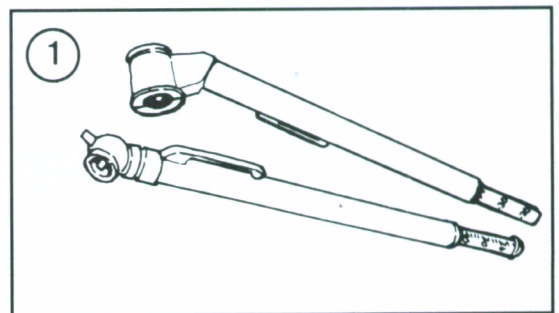
Tire Inspection

The tires take a lot of punishment due to the variety of terrain they are subject to. Inspect them periodically for excessive wear, cuts, abrasions, etc. If you find a nail or other object in the tire, mark its location with a light crayon prior to removing it. This will help locate the hole for repair. Refer to Chapter Nine for tire changing and repair information.

Rim Inspection

Frequently inspect the condition of the wheel rims, especially the outer side. If the wheel has hit a tree or large rock, rim damage may be sufficient to cause an air leak or knock it out of alignment. Improper wheel alignment can cause severe vibration and result in an unsafe riding condition.

Make sure the 4 lug nuts (**Figure 2**) are securely in place on all wheels. If they are loose or lost—it's good-bye wheel.



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